



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - July 17, 2002

- ***In the West***, scattered showers in the ***Four Corners States and Intermountain region*** are easing irrigation demands and providing limited drought relief to rangelands and dryland summer crops.
- ***On the Plains***, showers and thunderstorms across ***Montana and the Dakotas*** are easing the effects of the recent heat wave on spring-sown small grains. Meanwhile, drought continues to severely stress pastures and dryland summer crops on the ***central High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, beneficial showers are spreading into the ***lower Ohio Valley***. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, temperatures (forecast to range from 85 to 95 degrees F today) remain mostly favorable for reproductive corn and soybeans, although unfavorable dryness persists in the ***western Corn Belt*** (especially in ***South Dakota and Nebraska***) and has developed in some areas from ***Illinois to Ohio and southern Michigan***.
- ***In the South***, showers continue to aid pastures and summer crops from the ***Delta westward***, but hot, dry weather is reducing topsoil moisture and increasing stress on rain-fed crops in the ***Atlantic Coast States***.

Outlook: For the remainder of the week, moisture spreading inland from the ***Gulf of Mexico*** will bring periods of rain to the ***southern Plains, Delta, and Ohio Valley***. Meanwhile, showers associated with a cold front will spread across the ***Ohio Valley, New England, and Mid-Atlantic States***, eventually reaching the ***Southeast***. In the ***West***, monsoon moisture will maintain the threat of showers across the ***Southwest and Great Basin***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for July 22-26 calls for warmer-than-normal weather across the ***western half of the U.S.*** and ***northern New England***, but below-normal temperatures in the ***Southeast***. Above-normal rainfall is likely in the ***southern Plains, Delta, Southeast, and along the Atlantic Seaboard***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected in the ***northern parts of the Rockies and Plains, Great Lakes region***, and much of the ***Corn Belt***.

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